

Proposed Re-organization of Planning Targets and Issues to Guide Roundtable Discussions

(Peyton Revised Aug 9, 2006) [✓ We have addressed these]

1 Planning Need: Establish a program of management to address Wolf–Human conflicts associated with depredation on domestic animals, public concerns for safety (e.g., habituated wolves), impacts on other wildlife (e.g., deer)

✓What guidelines should influence the state’s plan regarding management of challenges created by the presence of wolves? E.G.,

- ✓depredation of livestock
- ✓depredation of pets on or near residential areas
- ✓habituated (“fearless”) wolf behaviors creating public concerns for safety

depredation of hunting dogs in the field
potential or actual impacts on other wildlife species (e.g., deer)

✓What guidelines should influence the state’s plan regarding methods for managing wolf-related challenges? E.G.,

- ✓lethal removal of “problem” wolves by
 - government employees
 - recreational harvesters
 - affected landowners
- ✓non-lethal intervention
 - trap and relocation
 - intervention methods to avoid problems (e.g., livestock management; harrassment)
 - fertility controls to reduce wolf abundance
 - compensation for property losses
- ✓use of “zero tolerance” zones to exclude wolves from certain areas high probability of problems (e.g., agricultural, residential)

Proposed as #2 Planning Need: Set Goals for Wolf Distribution and Abundance in Michigan

What guidelines should be applied when determining where wolves exist in the state?

Issue example: wolves in the northern lower peninsula; southern lower peninsula?

What guidelines should influence the setting of agency goals regarding appropriate abundance in those areas where wolves are intended to exist in Michigan?

Issue example: Should population goals be set by Biological Carrying Capacity or by Social Carrying Capacity; i.e., should wolves be allowed to establish their own population levels without management (BCC) or managed according to SCC?

Issue example: If SCC is used, what wolf-related benefits, costs and risks are most important when determining appropriate wolf abundance for a region; i.e., what should indicate that there are too few or too many?

3 Planning Need: Respond to the expectancy of some stakeholders that wolves will be harvested to provide recreational benefits through hunting and/or trapping.

What guidelines should influence the state in deciding whether to allow regulated wolf harvest as a recreational opportunity (separate from the question of its possible use as a population control method)?

4 Planning Need: Establish a program of management to maintain wolves at the desired goals of abundance and distribution in the event that this is necessary

What guidelines should influence the state's plan regarding the selection of methods to manage a regional population that has exceeded a goal? E.G., :

Examples of optional methods:

Use of government employees to reduce the wolf population by shooting or trapping

Use of regulated recreational harvest to reduce the wolf population by shooting or trapping

Use of fertility controls to restrict population growth

What guidelines should influence the state's plan regarding the selection of methods to recover a regional population that has fallen below goal?

5 Planning Need: Determine the potential role of Information & Education in avoiding and resolving wolf-related issues; describe goals and attributes of an effective outreach program.

What guidelines should influence the state's plan regarding outreach efforts (public education) as a means of managing wolf-related issues?

6 Planning Need: Design a process to ensure that the state's wolf management program will be revised at appropriate intervals and with effective public involvement.

What guidelines should influence the timing and procedures involved in subsequent revisions of the wolf plan?

7 Planning Need: Address the question of how wolf-related management programs will be funded.

Example Issue: If the wolf remains a non-game species, should wolf management and research programs be funded by game and fish revenues?

Planning Needs Suggested by Roundtable Discussion:

8 Planning Need: Address the need to have a research program that supports and enhances wolf management in MI.

9 Planning Need: Managing for positive interactions and benefits of wolves (e.g., tourism, existence values, etc.)

Important Points to Address:

[An easel was set aside to collect important ideas that need to be addressed in the future by the Roundtable. These will be accumulated and included as part of each meeting report until each item is addressed satisfactorily by the Roundtable.]

From July 14, 2006 meeting:

1. We need to add 'research priorities' as a planning need
2. We need to be sure we consider information and education (I&E) needs as part of each issue
 - a. Evaluate and address the need for an Information & Education effort to help manage livestock depredation
3. We need to state a recommendation that the plan should be reviewed at regular intervals; the first time being 5 years after delisting.
4. We need to review the overall wolf management goal (per the mission charge statement)
5. Some statement of rationale for each principle would assist us in producing a more compelling guideline document.

From August 4, 5 meeting:

1. Address funding for I&E to help reduce depredation
2. I&E for dog owners away from their residences
3. I&E for pet owners near residences
4. I&E regarding responsibilities for habituation of wolves
5. Add as a planning need for consideration: managing for positive interactions with wolves; tourism etc.